

On page 76, line 23, after the word "years," insert the following: "\$6 million shall be available for the Advanced Development Project Powder River Coal Initiative to be located in Gillette, Wyoming, and".

**MACK (AND GRAHAM)  
AMENDMENT NO. 1490**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 2466, supra; as follows:

On page 13, line 8, strike "\$5,244,000" and insert "\$54,744,000".

On page 17, line 19, strike "\$221,093,000" and insert "\$221,593,000".

**TAXPAYER REFUND ACT OF 1999**

**DORGAN AMENDMENT NO. 1491**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1429, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN MAIN STREET BUSINESSES BY EXPANDING EXISTING SMALL BUSINESS TAX EXPENSING RULES TO INCLUDE INVESTMENTS IN BUILDINGS AND OTHER DEPRECIABLE REAL PROPERTY.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) under current tax law, small businesses can immediately deduct, that is, "expense", up to \$19,000 in purchases of equipment and similar assets;

(2) there is bipartisan support for increasing the amount of this expensing provision because it helps many small businesses make the investments in equipment and machinery they need by allowing them to immediately write off the costs of such investments and bolstering their cash flow;

(3) this expensing provision, however, is not as helpful as it could be for some small businesses because it does not cover their investments in improving the storefront or the buildings in which they conduct their business;

(4) in many small towns, the local drug store, shoe store, or grocery store doesn't have much need for new equipment, but it does need to improve the storefront or the interior;

(5) although such investments are good for Main Streets across this Nation, our current tax law creates a disincentive to make them by requiring a small business owner to depreciate the costs of the building improvements over 39 years for tax purposes;

(6) legislation to expand the current expensing provision to cover investments in depreciable real property was recently introduced in the Senate with broad bipartisan cosponsorship, including the leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties;

(7) this proposal is also strongly supported by small business-oriented trade groups, including the National Federation of Independent Business, the Small Business Legislative Council, and the National Association of Realtors;

(8) the Department of the Treasury is currently conducting a comprehensive study of all depreciation provisions in our tax laws; and

(9) Congress should consider expanding the existing expensing provision to cover investments in storefront improvements and other

depreciable real property in any reform legislation that results from this study or, if possible, in any earlier legislation.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) many small businesses trying to improve their storefronts on Main Street or investing to upgrade their property would benefit if Congress expanded the existing expensing provision to cover investments in depreciable real property; and

(2) Congress should consider including this proposal in any future tax legislation.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000**

**MOYNIHAN AMENDMENT NO. 1492**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. MOYNIHAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1429, supra; as follows:

On page 94, line 7, strike "\$86,000,000" and insert "\$93,000,000".

On page 95, line 5, strike "\$97,550,000" and insert "\$104,550,000".

On page 96, line 5, strike "\$23,905,000" and insert "\$26,905,000".

On page 132, between lines 20 and 21, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ OFFSETTING REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS MADE AVAILABLE FOR ACCOUNTS FOR WHICH THIS ACT MAKES AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT MADE AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999.**

The amount made available for each account (including each subaccount for which a dollar amount is specified, but excluding the subaccount for statutory or contractual aid of the account for national recreation and preservation, relating to the National Park Service) for which this Act makes available an amount in excess of the amount made available for that account by the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, shall be reduced in an amount equal to \$17,000,000 multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the amount of the excess made available by this Act for that account and the denominator of which is the aggregate amount of the excess made available by this Act for all such accounts.

**BENNETT (AND OTHERS)  
AMENDMENT NO. 1493**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, S. 1429, supra; as follows:

On page 94, line 7, strike "\$86,000,000" and insert "\$90,000,000".

On page 95, line 5, strike "\$97,550,000" and insert "\$101,550,000".

**JEFFORDS AMENDMENT NO. 1494**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. JEFFORDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, H.R. 2466, supra; as follows:

On page 78, line 16, strike "\$682,817,000" and insert "\$689,817,000".

On page 78, line 19, strike "account:" and insert "and of which \$7,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from unobligated balances

in the Fossil Energy Research and Development account".

On page 78, line 24, strike "\$133,000,000" and insert "\$138,600,000".

On page 79, line 1, strike "\$33,000,000" and insert "\$34,400,000".

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that the hearing scheduled before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to receive testimony regarding S. 1052, To implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes," has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

For further information, please call James Beirne, Deputy Chief Counsel (202) 224-2564 or Betty Nevitt, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-0765.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO  
MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND  
FORESTRY**

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the markup of the original bill regarding the Livestock Mandatory Report Act of 1999.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 2 p.m., to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000  
TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM**

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS,  
PRIVATE PROPERTY AND NUCLEAR SAFETY**

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed sulfur standard for gasoline as contained in the proposed Tier Two standards for automobiles Thursday, July 29, 9:30 a.m., hearing room (SD-406).